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## Worst roads need your votes

CAA campaign aims to identify Niagara's  
bad thoroughfares.  
Page 3

## Doctors asked to think twice

Niagara Health System is asking physi-  
cians to use X-ray facilities sparingly.  
Page 6

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## Lakeshore students presenting The Breakfast Club



**MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK**  
From left, John Bender, played by Noah MacDougal, and Andrew Clark, played by Matt Traynor, came eye to eye before getting in a fist fight during rehearsals for The Breakfast Club at Lakeshore Catholic high school. See page 2 for story and photos.

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# High school staging play about high school

MICHELLE ALLENBERG  
Postmedia Network

Lakeshore Catholic High School in Port Colborne is recreating one of the 1980s most memorable movies as a stage production.

*The Breakfast Club* will be performed for what is believed to be the first time in Niagara as a play.

Director and teacher Rosalynn Aliberti said it's the first time she has heard of a school production in region or the Greater Toronto Area.



**I believe The Breakfast Club is a lot more relatable play than others because it is a play that centres around teens. It's a great way to connect with teens."**

Noah MacDougall



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

John Bender, played by Noah MacDougall, annoys Claire Standish, played by Jessica Traynor, also known as Princess during rehearsals for *The Breakfast Club* at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

Everyone remembers the iconic scene from *The Breakfast Club* when John Bender walks across the football field at the end of the movie. High school student Noah MacDougall, 17, will bring the beloved character of Bender to life during the three-night production April 28-30.

MacDougall was drawn to the Bender because of the dynamic elements to the character. MacDougall said Bender isn't just a tough guy, he also has knowledge and wisdom.

"I believe *The Breakfast Club* is a lot more relatable

play than others because it is a play that centres around teens. It's a great way to connect with teens," MacDougall said.

Adding the play portrays teens in a realistic way that makes it relatable, he said the play gives teens the opportunity to see mental health and bullying so they can recognize it in their own lives.

"With all different types of

personalities, none of these characters are the same in any way. They all represent completely different ideals in school. So if those five characters can manage to bring out their feelings and come together then, what's to say that anyone in a regular school environment can't do the same thing," MacDougall said.

Aliberti said there is a big push to create dia-

logue about mental illness and bullying in schools. She thought *The Breakfast Club* would be a great way to encourage that discussion and bring awareness to issues facing teens.

"The message at the end is that ... no one person is a jock, or princess or whatever. Everyone is bits and pieces of all of that," she said.

For Aliberti the movie is timeless and anyone can

relate to the message.

"It's set in a high school, it's got suicide, bullying, peer pressure, popularity, all the things that you see in high school. It is the quintessential play about high school," Aliberti said.

The roles that are assigned in the play, including geek and jock, are titles that still exist today. Aliberti said high school doesn't really change, which makes the issues still

relevant today.

Tickets are available for general admission for \$15 and students and seniors for \$10. To purchase tickets contact Nancy Bodis at 905-835-2451 or via email [nancy.bodis@dcib.com](mailto:nancy.bodis@dcib.com).

Tickets will be available at the door as well.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. each day.

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# Time to vote for worst roads

**LAURA BARTON**  
Special Postmedia Network

It's voting time again — not for politicians, but for the worst roads in Niagara.

CAA launched its 13th annual Worst Roads campaign last Wednesday and, like for past years, it's up to motorists to vote which roads they think are most in need of improvement.

CAA Niagara spokesman Rick Mauro said the auto agency has already gotten word that there is an 80-percent decline in pothole repair requests this year in Niagara.

**“Please do not vote for a worst road while driving.”**

CAA Niagara spokesman  
Rick Mauro

But, he said, it's not only about potholes.

The key is to give Niagara residents a voice when it comes to road improvement while also encouraging federal and provincial government to "deepen financial commitment to municipalities," said CAA Niagara president Drew Chamberlain.

"Politicians, we tend to like cutting ribbons and opening up new facilities," said St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle. "But in doing so, we've left a legacy of massive infrastructure deficits across the region, across the province, across the country."

He said \$120 billion over the next 10 years will be used toward infrastructure improvements and he is working to figure out how to



Drew Chamberlain, president and chief executive officer of CAA Niagara, is pictured at the launch of the annual Worst Roads campaign at CAA offices last Wednesday in Thorold.

best help Niagara while also addressing what the upper levels of government are focusing on.

Chamberlain said some of the steps the two levels of government have already taken include dedicating some of the gas tax revenue to infrastructure while directly consulting municipalities to see how the money can be best used.

Mauro said there has been improvement in the region over the years. He said a majority of the roads

identified by prior Worst Roads campaigns have been repaired.

The information garnered from the campaign is also important to municipalities. St. Catharines city Coun. Carlos Garcia called the road information valuable and "particularly important" for Niagara because of how spread out the region is.

He lamented two roads from his city being on last year's top 10 list — Queenston and Ontario streets — and said he hopes none of the

city's roads will make the list this year.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Ramolo Diegidio said road repair workers will make navigating the streets more difficult and it is the responsibility of drivers to be safe.

To vote in the Worst Roads campaign, go to [www.CAA-WorstRoads.ca](http://www.CAA-WorstRoads.ca) and use #ONWorstRoads to share the campaign on social media.

"Please do not vote for a worst road while driving," Mauro said.

## LAST YEAR'S WORST ROADS

## Niagara

1. Dominion Rd., Fort Erie
2. Queenston St., St. Catharines
3. Lakeshore Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake
4. Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls
5. Drummond Rd., Niagara Falls

## Ontario

1. Algonquin Blvd. West, Timmins
2. Algonquin Blvd. East, Timmins
3. Dufferin St., Toronto
4. Highway 144, Greater Sudbury
5. Carling Ave., Ottawa



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# Homeless count a good start



**GRANT  
LAFLECHE**



**PHOTOGRAPH BY D. FOTOLIA**

The first real feature I wrote was about the homeless living in the shadows of the hustle and bustle of downtown St. Catharines back in 1998.

Poverty then was just as serious a problem as it is now, but it wasn't a front burning political issue.

Times, fortunately, have changed. It's been gratifying to see the Niagara community increasingly take the issues of poverty and homelessness seriously. It's even one of the central ideas of St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik's administration, operating under the umbrella of his "compassionate city" concept.

There has been a steadily growing recognition that raising up the poorest in our community is ultimately better for the social and economic health of the entire city.

Still, we've never really had a clear picture of how widespread some of the issues are. We can get some idea by looking at employment rates and income levels. Niagara Region's

Niagara Prosperity Initiative uses available statistical data to map the region's economic health, showing us where the poorest and wealthiest neighbourhoods are.

But when it comes to homelessness, or how many people use shelters or emergency food programs, the data has always been soft.

The Out of the Cold program, which provides meals and overnight shelter to people who need it, can't provide absolute numbers on its client base, which is often a moving target. Co-ordinators know how many overnight stays there are in a given year, for instance, but that data doesn't filter for repeat customers versus those who used the shelter only once.

Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold has more specific data on its number of clients, but that information doesn't capture

those who live on the streets.

The RAFT knows the number of teens it serves and provides shelter to, but how many youth are couch surfing across the region isn't known.

This all gets more complicated because the truly homeless can be difficult to track and often have to deal with mental health issues which can prevent them from turning to those agencies that could help them.

As a result, service agencies and governments are forced to make the best educated guesses they can.

Crafting good policy to grapple with any issue becomes problematic if the data is lousy. Without solid information you can't measure the effectiveness of a particular program.

Fortunately, that is starting to change. Using \$44,000 in federal funding — part of an effort to build a national count of Canada's homeless — the Region conducted a head count of the unsheltered homeless (those living on the streets) and the sheltered (those staying in emergency shelters, including women's shelters).

Volunteers did a count last Tuesday, and brought along surveys they asked those on the street or at a shelter to complete.

The count will not be definitive. Katie Macroetta, the Region's manager of homeless, housing and hostels, said the count won't include everyone who could be classified as

homeless. It won't, for instance, capture couch surfers.

Macroetta also said that some of the homeless, sheltered or unsheltered, declined to fill out the survey.

These caveats aside, the count will provide the first and most accurate snapshot of our homeless population.

The results are expected to be made public in late April or early May, Macroetta said.

Knowing how many people are homeless, why they ended up there and where they are will help shelters, outreach workers and service agencies alike.

However, for the data to be truly useful, the count cannot be a one-time event.

Given that the homeless population can be difficult to track, and the natural reticence of some to complete a survey, the more times the count is done, the more accurate a picture the data will paint.

We need to know how the demographics of our homeless population are shifting over time to understand if services and programs are working well.

However, we should thank the federal government for funding the count, and the region for conducting it, this initiative requires long term support if the information it gathers is to be of any real use.

Glafche@postmedia.com  
Twitter: @glafches

## I've Been Thinking: Feeding the hungry in Jesus Name

**GORD ABRAHAM**  
Port Colborne Baptist

I wrote the following article in 2012 regarding the new Food Bank at the Reach Out Centre, 61 Nickel Street. It is now under the direction of Amanda Uppner.

I try to volunteer my time, two days a month, and work with two great ladies and my new friends, Helen and Jessie plus a daily team of volunteers. They provide caring oversight in every aspect of the Food Bank.

As always, the need for food supplies is present with us, so would you consider giving to the needs of others while you enjoy all you have?

Here is what I wrote, four years ago, to give you some background.

"I'm stating that is a common expression we use when we have missed a meal or two. It's really not true.

It is only an expression. Most of us in Canada do not know what absolute poverty and hunger really is. Absolute poverty and hunger is a state where there are no resources for you

to draw upon to meet your essential needs as a human being. Nothing 'Zippol' Nadal!

We, in Canada in general and Port Colborne in particular, do have hungry people. For whatever reason, there are children who do not get the nourishment they need and families who just can't stretch the meager dollars they have in order to provide their basic food needs. It's time to stop the complaining and excuses for not helping and do something for others!

In 1986, members of the Clergy Fellowship, and a few others, began the Inter-Church Food Bank as a means to help people with emergency food needs. As the needs grew, and the demands for more food supplies, the Inter-Church Food Bank moved to different locations and expanded their inventory. Many people worked and gave sacrificially for this cause.

In recent years, the Port Colborne/Walton-Fleet Clergy Fellowship, the Port Cares Reach Out Centre and the Salvation Army received food supplies from local churches, businesses, individuals and outside corporate donors that helped maintain a basic inventory of food for each of them to distribute. While each of the

three Food Providers operated independently, the regular practice among the three was to keep in contact with each other and often share the supplies each had received.

The largest and longest serving of the three Food Providers, the Inter-Church Food Bank, reached a cross-road in 2010. With the retirement of its long-term, volunteer Director, rapidly growing food needs among people in our community, lessening supplies of food to the Inter-Church Food Bank and an evaluation of the present and future needs, they established a Food Bank Planning Team. This new team was to develop a plan to fulfil the mandate of "feeding the hungry in Jesus Name".

The major need to be incorporated into the new plan were:

1. One permanent location for food storage and distribution.
2. Computerized database of clients and food resources.
3. A new generation of Volunteers from our churches and community to complement those already serving.

Opportunity came, during the planning

process, to consider and accept the amalgamation of the Food Providers into the new Port Cares Reach Out Centre when the expansion plans were completed. This would fulfil the three areas of need mentioned above."

That was 2012 and now in 2016 the needs are just as great. The new Food Service and Food Bank have become a reality. It is called the Reach Out Centre and Food Bank and is under the direction of Port Cares in their new and expanded Facilities on the corner of Davis and Nickel Streets."

Please remember the Community Food Bank through the spring and summer and "Thank you" for your continued support of our Food Centre with your donations. You may also consider the opportunity of being a Food Bank Volunteer once a week, monthly or whenever you can give them a day. You will have the privilege of serving others in need with a smile, a caring hand and food. The Food Bank is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12:30-3:30pm. For any questions, food supply needs, or to volunteer, please call Amanda Uppner at the Reach Out Centre (905-834-1914)

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# Owners convicted for cruelty to dog

BILL SAWCHUK  
Postmedia Network

Justice has been served in relation to a dog found near death in north St. Catharines last year.

St. Catharines residents Taty Laffrenier and Joshua Anthony Legacy pleaded guilty to charges of animal cruelty and were fined \$1,000 each in Provincial Offences Court last Tuesday.

They also received one year of probation and were ordered to pay Lincoln County Humane Society \$223 each in restitution.

Minnie, a French Mastiff cross-breed, was severely emaciated when she was picked up by the humane society in March 2015. The dog was reported as a stray wandering near Niagara and Scott streets.

Minnie spent two months recovering from her injuries at the humane society.

She was adopted by a St. Catharines family.

"Minnie suffered needlessly, and we are pleased that the courts recognized this serious offence," said Kevin Strooband, the humane society's executive director.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Minnie, a French Mastiff cross-breed, was severely emaciated when it was picked up by the humane society in March 2015.

"As a pet owner it is your responsibility to provide the care your pet needs. Letting them go without adequate care is never the right decision."

The court also banned Laffrenier and Legacy from owning animals for five years, though the court allowed them to keep two cats and two dogs they already own.

Laffrenier and Legacy were convicted of failing to provide adequate and appropriate medical attention. Laffrenier was convicted of causing distress. Legacy was convicted of permitting distress.

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# Turtle smuggler fined \$25,000

Postmedia Network

A Toronto seafood supplier has been fined \$25,000 after he was nabbed smuggling 40 live turtles into Canada at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ile Hwa Shen, owner of Marine Seafood Inc., pleaded guilty March 26 in a St. Catharines court to illegally importing turtles into Canada, a violation under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act.

In December 2013, Environment and Climate Change Canada, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, launched a joint force operation focusing on the trade in Florida soft-shell turtles.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 40 live Florida soft-shell turtles, which were

smuggled into Canada through Shen's company.

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Florida soft-shell turtles are prized for their meat, which has led to a decline in their numbers.

In response, Florida has banned the commercial fishing of the turtles.

The turtles seized in this case were found to have fish hooks buried in their throats.

In May 2015, Shen was found guilty in federal court for contraventions under the Customs Act and fined \$18,000 for smuggling turtles.

In an unrelated case, a Windsor resident was fined \$3,500 in February after being convicted of smuggling turtles across the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge.

In that case, the man had more than three dozen turtles strapped to his legs.

# No film at 11 if you can help it

ALLAN BENNER  
Postmedia Network

Although X-ray services will continue at Port Colborne's urgent-care centre, Niagara Health System is urging doctors to use it sparingly during night shifts.

"We're asking the physicians to think twice about after-hours X-rays," Dr. Tom Stewart, NHS chief of staff, said.

"In Port Colborne, we're talking about between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., in the off hours."

He said urgent-care centres in Port Colborne and Fort Erie gets about five visits during that time, "and maybe once or twice a week — maybe up to three times — they need to get X-rays done."

Most of those X-rays, Stewart said, are routine, yet getting X-rays done in the middle of the night requires a technician to be called in

From a bigger picture, we have a 24-hour, urgent-care centre that should have 24 hour a day services. This is once again that systematic cutting and slicing until the facility is no longer viable."

Welland MPP Cindy Forster

after hours, at a considerable expense.

"It's really about cost savings so we can put that back into programs to make sure people are getting what we need, like CT scans and MRIs," he said.

However, Stewart said X-rays will still be available if they're needed.

"If the physician decides that someone absolutely needs an X-ray, they're going to get it."



borne hospital.

"From a bigger picture, we have a 24-hour, urgent-care centre that should have 24 hour a day services. This is once again that systematic cutting and slicing until the facility is no longer viable," she said.

Forster, a registered nurse, said ordering an X-ray is "at the doctor's discretion in any event."

"It's the doctor who makes the diagnosis, it's the doctor who is there when the patient presents with their issue, whether it's a respiratory issue or a broken bone," she said. "It's certainly up to the doctor to make that informed decision."

Stewart said if patients are unhappy with the doctor's decision not to order an X-ray, "they could drive to an emergency where there's 24/7 X-ray and get one."

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# Pharmacy thefts draw penitentiary time

TONY RICCIUTO  
Postmedia Network

A man who was involved in three pharmacy robberies in the Niagara area in 2014 has

been sentenced to penitentiary for two years.

"I made terrible choices," Jeffrey Delargy, 33, said Wednesday in the Ontario Court of Justice in St.

Catharines where he pleaded guilty to one of the robberies that took place at a pharmacy on Lake Street in St. Catharines on June 5, 2014.

The facts were read into the record for two other pharmacy robberies that took place the following month in Niagara Falls, one on Victoria Avenue on July 3, and another at a Stanley Eye robbery on July 4.

Assistant Crown attorney Tim Hill said the accused confronted the pharmacist who was behind the counter on Lake Street and warned him he had a gun. Delargy lifted his shirt and a handgun was seen in his waistband. That weapon later proved to be an imitation handgun.

A quantity of drugs were placed in a bag and the suspect was last seen running southbound on Lake Street.

On July 3, shortly after 9 p.m. Delargy entered a pharmacy on Victoria Avenue, demanded a quantity of drugs while putting his waist and saying he had a gun. On July 4, he entered a pharmacy on Stanley Avenue and made his way to the back of the store. His face was covered and he was carrying a red bag. He demanded narcotics and indicated he had a gun.



I made terrible choices."

Jeffrey Delargy

Hill said the drugs were valued at about \$20,000. The suspect ran away and police were quick to arrive on scene. Police recovered a red bag, gloves, clothing, a silver imitation handgun and the narcotics.

Judge Joseph Nadel said the accused has a long history of trying to deal with drugs, with his first conviction dating back to 2002 and the last conviction was in 2009.

Nadel said two years for a robbery of this type is on the low side, but he was impressed that the accused started his recovery even before he was arrested.

Once Delargy is released from jail, he will be on probation for three years. His terms include staying away from the three pharmacies in question and not to possess any weapons, guns or ammunition for 10 years.

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# Fenwick shooting still under investigation

BILL SAWCHUK  
Postmedia Network

An armed standoff in Fenwick six months ago that sent two Niagara Regional Police officers and a suspect to hospital is still being probed by the province's Special Investigations Unit.

"The investigation is ongoing," SIU spokesman Jason Gennaro said.



In the first days and weeks of an investigation, we are trying to get all of the facts straight. That can take time, as can completing the interviews."

SIU spokesman  
Jason Gennaro

Pelham firefighters and NRP officers responded to reports of a suicidal man at Canboro Gardens, 704 Canboro Rd. in Fenwick, on Oct. 8.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Constables Neal Ridley and Jake Braun were both shot, as was the suspect identified by neighbours as 29-year-old Corey Richardson.

Richardson was originally listed in serious condition but

is now out of the hospital, Gennaro said.

"The man was shot," Gennaro confirmed. Officers Ridley and Braun have returned to work.

Gennaro wouldn't comment on possible charges against the suspect.

"The SIU would be responsible for laying those charges if warranted," he said.

Const. Phil Gavin said the NRP is prohibited from releasing information or commenting on the investigation while it is in the hands of the SIU. The SIU investigates incidents involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

Depending on the evidence, the SIU has a number of options. An officer can be criminally charged, if warranted, or the SIU can close the file without charges laid.

It reports results of its investigations to the attorney general's office, which takes over the file. It can take months before the investigations are complete, Gennaro said.

A variety of factors influence the timing and closure of cases, including the sheer volume of investigations across the province as well as their complexity, he said.

While an investigation is ongoing, the SIU rarely offers any more than cursory details of its work, which includes gathering and assessing facts surrounding the incident. The SIU believes too much information may jeopardize the integrity of the process, Gennaro said.

nario said.

"There are a number of reasons we don't lay the facts out on the table right away," he said. "In the first days and weeks of an investigation, we are trying to get all of the facts straight. That can take time, as can completing the interviews."

"We don't want any information out there that may affect

or influence the memories of potential witnesses. We want witnesses to give us as much information as they can independently of what we have said."

"The object is not to get to the truth. It isn't about hiding anything."

Also Tuesday, the SIU reported it is undertaking a new

investigation in Niagara involving the death of a 93-year-old man after his body was pulled from the Welland Recreational Canal on April 1.

The SIU reported that just before 8 p.m. on March 31, NRP officers received a 911 call about a man at the canal. Officers responded and engaged with the man.

Sometime before noon on April 1, the body of the man was found in the water at the canal near Welland's Merritt Park Amphitheatre.

The SIU reported it had designated two subject officers as part of this investigation.

Four investigators and one forensic investigator have been assigned to the incident.

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GREG FARMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

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# Home Show Spotlight

**Happiness and Success comes to People who are Prepared!**

Spring is finally here! Yahoo!

The 29th annual **Niagara Lifestyle Home Show** will offer you - ideas, services and companies with solutions for all your home and lifestyle needs! Companies with the experience and expertise are available to talk to you and are for hire so that the burden is off your shoulders, financial institutions are able to show you that you do have the finances and there are services that can add to your lifestyle enjoyment. Different products are on the market to enhance your living quarters! Turn your dream into a reality and talk to the spa and pool experts about creating your own backyard sanctuary!

Let's start from the outside. **Baron Roofing, London Eco Roof and RVP Roofing** offer high quality and extremely durable residential roofing products. Visit them online at [www.VirtualHomeShow.ca](http://www.VirtualHomeShow.ca).

Have you had a chance to inspect your sidewalks, yards and decking? This time of year is very good for walking around your property and ensuring that these areas haven't shifted during the winter. Take advantage while you're at the show and talk to one of the decking experts and decide how you want to customize your backyard deck! Rubber surfacing is another fantastic surface solution. Finish it off with beautiful curbing and landscaping and don't forget to look at your fencing! If your concrete needs raising, we have the experts to talk to at the show! Go to [www.VirtualHomeShow.ca](http://www.VirtualHomeShow.ca) and click on the companies you wish to consider.

Get ready to enjoy the outdoors while being surrounded by a beautiful addition to your home! **Lumon** frameless glass terraces offer something new and exciting. Whether you use it as a beautiful extended living space or an area to start

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Wouldn't it be great to have a washroom updated? We have experts ready and able to provide suggestions and quotes for you. How about that special person who would love to have an easier time with mobility issues in the bath? Perhaps there's a solution that you haven't considered or thought seriously about. Have a look. Talk to **Bath Fitter** at the Niagara Lifestyle Home Show or see them on-line at [www.VirtualHomeShow.ca](http://www.VirtualHomeShow.ca).

Usually in many projects there's an electrical component. Visit **Kraun Electric** to alleviate any concerns regarding electrical usage and safety. **Kraun Electric** is a full service electrical

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One food company in the Niagara Lifestyle Home Show have a very strong and growing following. **Niagara Smoked Meats** has a variety of sausages and cheeses that you can taste. Be forewarned though, once you try their delicious selection, you won't be able to leave their booth without purchasing some of their products to take home with you! Visit **Niagara Smoked Meats** at [www.VirtualHomeShow.ca](http://www.VirtualHomeShow.ca).

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# Landlord accused of secretly filming female tenant

ALISON LANGLEY  
Postmedia Network

A Niagara Falls woman said she was horrified when she went on her landlord's laptop computer and found a video of herself sleeping.

"I just started clicking on things," she said Tuesday, in Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines.

"On the second or third click there was a video. It showed the kitchen floor, then the light being turned on in the bedroom and the camera coming up to me in the bed ... then I turned it off."

The woman's former landlord pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a charge of criminal voyeurism, which involves someone who surreptitiously observes or makes a visual recording of a person who is in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The names of the parties involved are not being published, as the woman's identity is protected under a court-ordered publication ban.

The 35-year-old woman told assistant Crown attorney Graeme Leach she woke in the early hours of Aug. 11, 2014, to find the man standing over her and lifting up a blanket at her waist level.

She confronted the man, who lived in the basement of the home, and he left the resi-

dence.

The following day, the woman went downstairs and on a hunch went on the man's laptop and found the video. She testified the video is not from the time she woke to find him in the bedroom.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Joseph LoConte, the woman said she never saw the man upload the video onto his laptop.

Court heard the good friends and the defendant had been good friends for many years and he had offered his home to her, her common-law spouse and her son.

The family had been living with the defendant for about seven years.

She testified she paid him rent but she would sometimes be late with the payment. She said the defendant also helped her to get a line of credit and co-signed on a vehicle.

"But that doesn't mean he can film me or be in my bedroom," she said.

She refuted a suggestion by LoConte that his client was in the bedroom that night because he was looking for paper towels.

She also disagreed with a suggestion by the lawyer that the man had asked the family to leave shortly before the incident is said to have occurred because he was "tired of financing your life."

The trial continues April 18 in St. Catharines.

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Calling all fans of legendary 1970's Country-Rock group "The Eagles"! On Saturday May 7th at 8:00pm, the music of The Eagles will be celebrated at the intimate Roselawn Theatre with a new, international touring show called "Take It Easy: The Story of The Eagles". Comprised of some of Canada's leading session musicians, "Take It Easy" will perform all of the classic hits from the Eagles extensive career with amazing accuracy.

The evening will be comprised of two sets, with the first half featuring all the songs from the multi-million selling album "Eagles Greatest Hits 1971-1975" including "Take It Easy", "One of These Nights", "Tequila Sunrise", "Peaceful Easy Feeling" and "Desperado" amongst the audience favourites.

After an intermission, the band will return with more classic hits from the latter portion of The Eagles career including "Life in the Fast Lane", "The Long Run", "Heartache Tonight" and their signature song "Hotel California". As a bonus, the multi-talented cast will also perform solo hits made famous by Eagles band members Don Henley, Glenn Frey and Joe Walsh.

Tickets to see this incredible show at the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne on Saturday May 7th at 8:00pm are on sale now, value-priced at only \$35 all inclusive, available at the theatre box office located at 296 Friesen Avenue or by phoning 905-834-7572. Get your tickets early to ensure the best seats!

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# Social media a platform for rabies

CERENA GATHL  
Special to The Tribune



Niagara's health department is turning to social media to spread the word about rabies.

It was previously reported that in February a raccoon from West Lincoln had tested positive for rabies — the first such incident in the region in a quarter-century.

Just beyond the Niagara border, though, officials are facing a bigger than normal fight against rabies.

Hamilton said last week there are now 65 cases of rabies in both raccoons and skunks in the city.

It says 46 raccoons and 19 skunks have tested positive for the virus since the first case was reported in early December.

Hamilton public health says skunks are a common rabies vector and were expected to be found in areas where raccoons tested positive for the virus.

It says five other raccoons have tested positive for rabies — four in nearby Haldimand-Norfolk and the one in the Niagara region — bringing the total in the province to 70.

Raccoon rabies hasn't been seen in Ontario since 2005 and its re-emergence in early December only came to light after two dogs got into a fight with a sick raccoon in the back of an animal services van.

That raccoon tested positive for rabies and the dogs were held in quarantine after being inoculated against the virus.

"With raccoons, there's been bad rabies in the past in Niagara," said Niagara Region environmental health man-

**With raccoons, there's been bad rabies in the past in Niagara. With other ground animals, such as cats and dogs, we haven't had anything bad in Niagara in a long time."**

Niagara Region environmental health manager Peter Jekel

ager Peter Jekel. "With other ground animals, such as cats and dogs, we haven't had anything bad in Niagara in a long time."

"May is Rabies Awareness Month, so around that time we will be ramping up our social media and setting up events."

Kevin Strobband, executive director of Lincoln County Humane Society, said it is only "just a matter of time" until rabies could spread throughout other Niagara communities.

"There are a lot of sick raccoons in Grimsby, but most of them have distemper, which is a viral infection," Strobband said.

Niagara Region Public Health advises anyone has been bitten by or come in contact with an animal suspected as a rabies carrier to call 1-888-505-6074.

— with files from the Canadian Press



JENNY THOMPSON - FOTOLIA

# Cuban Five member says thanks in Niagara

SARAH FERGUSON  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Gerardo Hernández finally has the family he's always wanted.

The 51-year-old Cuban has been reunited with his wife, Adriana Pérez, and together they have a beautiful infant daughter, 15-month-old Gema.

"I'm dreaming now. I'm living a dream," Hernández said Monday afternoon while visiting Fort Erie's town hall, where he greeted Mayor Wayne Redekop and members of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association of Niagara.

"I spent a total of 15 years, three months and four days in prison," Hernández said.

Hernández, a member of the Cuban Five and an intelligence officer, said he was part of the group of five Cuban men who were arrested on Sept. 12, 1998, in Miami and unjustly imprisoned in the U.S.

Hernández said the U.S. government falsely accused him and his comrades, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González, of committing espionage conspiracy against the U.S. and other related charges.

He said the Cuban Five began a mission in Miami to monitor terrorist organizations' plots and prevent attacks on Cuba.

"We were imprisoned but we were not criminals. We were against terrorism."

Two members of the Cuban Five were released from prison after completing their sentences.

Despite appealing the convictions, the three remaining members of the Cuban Five, including Hernández, weren't released until U.S. President Barack Obama granted them clemency on Dec. 17, 2014.

Hernández is grateful for a movement that swept across the world, with thousands of people calling for freedom for the men.

"I'm here to thank many friends that helped us through many years when

I was in prison in the U.S.," Hernández said about why he wanted to visit Canada.

"We received a lot of sup-

port from friends in Canada and we're here today to thank them."

He came to Niagara to visit

the sights in the area after giving a lecture about his life and his journey to freedom during a celebration in

Toronto.

"This is my first time to Canada and I like it. I feel like I have been to Canada

before because I have so many good friends here that supported me through the years," Hernández said.

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# Students build house to go

ALLAN BENNER  
TRIBUNE STAFF

Weather wasn't a problem for Niagara College construction techniques students who built a house this winter.

After having braved the elements while building the past 10 homes for Habitat for Humanity Niagara, the college's 70 students and faculty stayed indoors while working on their 11th home for the organization.

Monday morning the nearly complete modular home they constructed was carefully disassembled into five sections, each of them just large enough to fit through a door at the Welland campus Rankin Technology Centre.

Each of the sections was rolled outside on casters and hoisted by crane onto a flatbed truck, then delivered piece by piece to 246 Martin St. in Welland south where the home will stand for years to come.

"I equate this to building a car in a factory," said Keith Gowans, Habitat's chief operating officer. "You don't build a car on your driveway, bring all the parts to it and put it together."

It was the first time the college's students constructed a modular home as part of its partnership with Habitat.

"This is kind of a new way for us to do it," Gowans said, adding he'd like to see future projects constructed with much the same way, using modular construction techniques to build indoors.

"This is a really nice environment," he said.

The cold, snowy conditions Monday as the modular home was being moved made for "the most inclement weather we've had to deal with from September to now," he said.

In addition to warm, dry working conditions, Gowans said indoor construction meant students had more time to spend learning their craft while building the home.

"The students get to remain on site, so they can be here and work on the house, maybe a little bit longer than they usually do," he said.

On past projects, travelling to and from the construction site "has always been a little bit of a challenge," he said.

The modular design meant some unusual design elements had to be



ALLAN BENNER/Welland Tribune

A section of modular home for Habitat for Humanity is carefully lowered onto a flatbed truck after being built indoors by Niagara College students

incorporated into the project.

In addition to slicing the building into five sections, the peak of the roof had to be removed to allow the building to fit through the door. And that required a unique system of roof trusses, designed to come apart in two sections that could then be reassembled on site.

"It works," Gowans said as construction techniques students used a forklift to separate the two halves of the roof. "It goes through the doorway, which is important."

The house will be owned by José and Claudia Palma, who fled El Salvador with their son José, and Claudia's mother, Antonia, to escape gang violence in the South American country.

The raised bungalow was designed to meet the specific needs of the Palma family, and can be expanded to support five bedrooms with two bedrooms downstairs and three on the main floor.

Although sweat equity is a requirement of purchasing a Habitat for Humanity home, the Palmas haven't had an opportunity to work on the building while it has been under construction within the college.

The family, however, will now have an opportunity to put finishing touches to the house over the next few months.

"With corporate partners and sponsors coming on to the site, the family will work with the team leads," Gowans said.

They could be involved in projects such as painting, flooring, cabinets, landscaping or building a deck.

The home should be complete in about two months.



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# A jumpstart on helping children play sports

**BERNO FRANK  
TRIBUNE STAFF**

Pay no mind to Mother Nature's belated April Fools joke. All the snow and covering is the undeniable fact this is opening week of the Major League Baseball season.

For Tom Paolone, chairman of the Welland Canadian Tire's Jumpstart committee, that can only mean one thing: convincing the community to go to bat for children whose families are unable to afford organ-

ized sports.

Between now and Jumpstart Day Saturday, May 28, he will be busy canvassing businesses and sports organizations in Welland and Pelham.

Paolone, who has spear-

headed the Welland chapter since the national charity's inception, hopes to top the \$94,413 the one-day event raised last year.

While that total is tops among Canadian Tire stores in the area, and the most

Jumpstart has raised locally in its six-year history, the figures that means so much more to Paolone is 1,085.

That's the number of boys and girls who, thanks to the generosity of Jumpstart supporters, got to participate in an activity of their choice last year.

"It's all about the kids who, through no fault of their own, can't afford to play sports," he said.

"Sports today is on the bottom of the list of family priorities. You gotta pay the mortgage, you have to pay the utilities..."

In Welland applications for subsidies, which are based on need, are administered through the Hope Centre. There's a \$350 per child limit, but no restriction on the number of requests from a family.

Paolone said Jumpstart doesn't play favourites when it comes to what activity a child gets to enjoy.

"It's any sport of their choosing, and it always has been," he said. "We would never deny a child the chance to play a sport."

"We try to make sure every kid gets the chance to get out of the house, get away from the TV and do something. Jumpstart and participation go together."

With the playoffs yet to get underway, it's too early to say which Welland Nippers will come out and play ball hockey with their young fans on Jumpstart Day.

"We won't know about that until later. This is just to let the community know I'm going to be banging on doors," Paolone said.

"It might seem a little early, but it takes a while to get everything into place."

Actually, the Welland native and retired GDX employee has been at it since February. He's already lined up Ball Hockey International, the Niagara IceDogs and the Welland Professional Fire Fighters Association for another year.

"I can't say enough about the firefighters, they always come through for us," said Paolone, pointing out about \$5,000 was raised in a boot drive last year.

New to Jumpstart will be the Niagara River Lions. Grace Lokole, a Notre Dame graduate and the expansion National Basketball League of Canada team's head coach, has agreed to participate, as will some of the players if the date doesn't conflict with the playoffs.

Bfranke@postmedia.com

## NOTICE OF A PROPOSED CHANGE TO A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

**Project Name:** Niagara Region Wind Farm

**Renewable Energy Approval:** 4353-9HMR2R

**IESO Reference Number:** F-001580-WIN-130-601

**Project Location:** The Niagara Region Wind Farm (the "Project") is located within Haldimand County and Niagara Region (including the Townships of Wainfleet and West Lincoln and the Town of Lincoln). The electrical interconnection components are located within the Town of Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln, in Niagara Region, and in Haldimand County in southern Ontario.

**Dated At:** Haldimand County and Niagara Region on this 6th day of April, 2016.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation ("NRWC") has issued a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) on November 6, 2014 in respect of the Niagara Region Wind Farm Project (the "Project"). Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching EBR #012-0613. An amendment to the existing approval for an administrative change to the Project was issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on November 23, 2015; to acknowledge the change in ownership of the Project from Niagara Region Wind Corporation to "FWRN LP", as FWRN LP has purchased the Project (EBR #012-5532).

FWRN LP is proposing to make changes to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act of Ontario (Act) Part V.0.1 and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (Regulation). In accordance with Section 16.0.1 of the Regulation this notice is being distributed to make the public aware of proposed changes to the project.

### Project Description and Proposed Change

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which the REA was issued, is considered to be a Class A Wind facility. An application has been made to the MOECC to change the project and alter the terms and conditions of the existing REA. The proposed change consists of project design changes to the REA Application and includes:

1. Meteorological (MET) towers: the installation of three (3) new MET towers to monitor wind speed, wind direction, and other atmospheric parameters, in order to satisfy Independent Electricity System Operator telemetry and forecasting requirements; and,
2. Transmission Line: the addition of an alternate transmission route to avoid pole placement along the Hwy 3 Ministry of Transportation (MTO) right of way to address recent comments received from the MTO.

### Documents for Public Inspection

FWRN LP has developed a Modification Document which summarizes the proposed change. A written copy of the Modification Document is currently available for public inspection on the project website (<http://www.nrwc.ca/projectdocuments/>). Copies of the final REA documents also remain available on the project website.

### Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project, or to communicate questions or comments, please contact:

Project Email Address: [info@nrwc.ca](mailto:info@nrwc.ca)

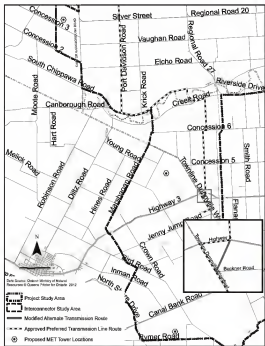
Project Website: [www.nrwc.ca](http://www.nrwc.ca)

Project Phone Number: 819-363-6491 or 1-844-363-6491 (toll free)

Shloh Beniman, Project Coordinator  
FWRN LP  
4672 Bartlett Road South  
Beavsville, ON L0R 1B1

J.A. (AJ) Leggett, BA, MCI, RPP, Project Manager  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
300 - 675 Cochrane Drive West Tower  
Markham, ON L3R 0B8

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This information will be used to assist FWRN LP in meeting applicable environmental approval requirements. This material will be maintained in the file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Unless indicated otherwise, personal information and all comments will become part of the public record and publicly released as part of project documentation.



From now until Jumpstart Day Saturday, May 28, Tom Paolone will be making a pitch for community support for a charity that helps children from less-fortunate families play organized sports.

# \$500,000 fine levied for heated floor death

BILL SAWCHUK  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A Niagara Falls contractor has been fined a record \$537,500 in the death of an elderly Niagara-on-the-Lake man.

A judge handed Pro-Tech Electric the largest financial penalty in the history of electrical contractor licensing in Ontario in a Niagara Falls courtroom last week.

Pro-Tech Electric pleaded guilty in April 2015 to multiple charges, including leaving an unsafe electrical condition, failure to procure connection authorization before use, and failure to apply for an electrical inspection.

The phone number listed for the company was not in service Tuesday.

The Electrical Safety Authority said that on April 5, 2014, an elderly man fell on the floor in the bathroom of his Niagara-on-the-Lake home where Pro-Tech Electric had installed an in-floor heating system.

The man suffered second- and third-degree burns from the overheated floor and died of his injuries weeks later in hospital.

An Electrical Safety Authority investigation revealed the floor

system's heat sensor had not been installed, and the heating system was wired to an incorrect voltage level.

"We are terribly saddened by this incident, and it underscores how dangerous electrical work can be when it's not done properly," said Scott Saint, chief safety officer for the Electrical Safety Authority.

According to its website, the ESA is mandated by the government of Ontario to enhance public electrical safety in the province as a safety regulator and advocate.

"We aggressively pursue those who operate outside the law, and we're pleased the court has delivered a strong message that if you break the law and put public safety at risk, there will be serious consequences," Saint said.

A spokesperson said the ESA is still analyzing the court's rationale for the ruling and has ordered the transcripts.

"It is, however, clear that the work was done incorrectly and an application for inspection was not filed with ESA, which is the law in Ontario," the spokesperson said.

Under the Provincial Offences Act, all fines include a 25 per cent victim surcharge that goes to a provincial fund to assist victims of crime.

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# Race horse share program launched

**RAY SPITERI**  
Postmedia Network

Have you ever wanted to own a race horse, but not be saddled with all the related expenses?

Well here's your chance. Niagara's Francine Villeneuve, along with her managing partner Amanda Roxborough, have created a syndicate allowing horse-racing fans to become an owner in the world of thoroughbred horse racing.

Called Sport of Queens Racing, Villeneuve and Roxborough offer a 200-share investment in a horse, at the cost of \$230 per share. Once all shares are sold, they will purchase a horse for the syndicate. Once a horse is purchased, there's a \$200 annual fee for each share purchased. Those interested can purchase as many shares as they want.

"That is all you pay. There are no bills. That is your whole investment," said Villeneuve, who was a jockey for 25 years, including at Fort Erie from the mid-1990s until 2012.

"Once they purchase a share, you are a member. You are entitled to come and visit the horse on the

back side. You'll have a section made up specially for all members to watch their horse when it runs. We will send out weekly updates on the horse's training and overall well-being. We have monthly meetings where we will educate newcomers to the industry, and have guest speakers, racing celebrities."

She said 200 shares is the "magic number where it will work financially for us to make it work without any one paying extra bills."

Villeneuve had a lucrative jockey career, always prominent in the standings.

"I had a goal to win 1,000 races, which I achieved. I was the first woman in Canada to do so, that was my ambition."

She retired in 2012 and became a trainer and owner.

Villeneuve said she started reading about nationwide syndicates and how they are becoming a "very popular thing."

"I thought why don't we, my partner and I, who's also been involved in the business for many, many years, put together a syndicate on a very economical level where many people can join and enjoy the whole process of

owning a race horse — experiencing the fun, the thrill of watching the horse run at very little cost," she said.

Villeneuve said she came up with the idea this past winter.

"The industry is kind of suffering a little bit with declining attendance, and I thought this would be an excellent way to bring more people to the industry, where they can enjoy what they should be able to enjoy, the race horse."

Villeneuve said she floated the idea at the end of January on Facebook and the response has been "really positive."

"We have a lot of backers, people in the business, as well as people who haven't been involved with racing at all. We need more people in the industry. I love the business, and it's been very good to me."

Villeneuve and Roxborough are looking to purchase a two- or three-year-

old horse in training in Ocala, Fla., or at possible private sales in Canada.

"There is a possibility that we would claim something, depending on when we sell all the shares," Villeneuve said.

She said it's not a money-making proposition for her or Roxborough. Villeneuve said they will both make a minimal salary, "but my hopes are that it will lead to more and more syndicates and more recognition."

"And maybe these people, once they have a good experience, will expand and want to buy a horse on their own. When these people come to the races, I'm sure they're going to bring their friends and family, so it's all going to multiply, I think."

"You never know, the horse may not ever make it to the races, but should this horse be successful, really successful, these people will tell their friends about what a good experience they've

had, so I see it being a very positive thing."

Villeneuve said the intention is for the syndicate's horse to be able to run at Woodbine, "but if it needs to run at Fort Erie, it will."

"I'll be training the horse, predominantly here at Fort Erie, but in the spring and fall at Woodbine when this is closed."

She said if a horse in which someone has purchased shares wins a race, they will get a percentage of their shareholdings.

"At 200 shares, you're not going to make a lot of money, but you can make your investment back, and you can make a little bit more money. But more than anything, it is the whole experience. But if you were to buy more than one share, you have a bigger stake in the horse."

Villeneuve said one person who has already invested in the syndicate was a horse groom from Fort Erie.

"He'd been on the track his whole life, lived in Fort Erie his whole life, but could never afford to own a race horse," she said. "Now he can say that he owns a race horse. He was so excited, he was almost crying when he actually invested."

She said the syndicate may also be appealing to those who take part in corporate sports pools.

"They have football pools and hockey pools and that sort of thing in the office. Why not get together and put a few bucks and get a share of a race horse? We've had people buy them as gifts for people."

Villeneuve said the syndicate is having its first monthly meeting on Saturday, which is opening day at Woodbine.

For more information, visit [sportofqueensracing.com](http://sportofqueensracing.com).

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REVIEW The Standard THE TRIBUNE

# Bradley likes stricter fundraising rules

BILL SAWCHUK  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

As Premier Kathleen Wynne moves forward to reform the political donation circuit in Ontario, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley said most members will welcome the changes.

"Frankly, I think all members of the legislature are looking forward to it," said Bradley, a veteran Liberal politician who has held numerous cabinet portfolios over his career.

"I know the government has been looking at it for some months and trying to determine how best to make the changes."

Bradley said legislation banning corporate and union donations would come in the spring, with further changes likely in the fall.

There were reports the Liberals had set fundraising quotas of up to \$500,000 each for cabinet ministers, who often turned to \$5,000-a-plate private dinners and receptions with donors and corporations.

"There is full disclosure already, but people are looking at stricter rules for the parties to follow," Bradley said. "Many jurisdictions have gone to fully public financing of campaigns, and I guess you could say in the best of all worlds that would happen, but I don't think the public is prepared to accept that."

Bradley said he wasn't aware of quotas for cabinet ministers.

"I never had an official quota," he said. "They sim-

ply asked all members of the caucus to participate in fundraising for the party and their own local association."

"The opposition did the same, and when they were in government."

The Progressive Conservatives have accused the Liberals of letting lobbyists who want government business buy access to cabinet ministers. The Tories also dismissed Liberal calls to cancel their planned party fundraisers, saying they aren't in a position to form public policy.

"People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," Bradley said.

"I see the leader of the Opposition held one at \$10,000 a person. If that is not going to influence any of his policies, then he would logically believe that all the other parties that might undertake fundraising activities are not influenced by it as well."

"You can't buy the Conservative caucus. You can't buy the NDP caucus, and you can't buy the Liberal caucus."

Bradley conceded the optics were bad, and that appearance is important in politics.

"You don't want the appearance that anyone has been influenced one way or the other by very large donations from individuals, the corporate sector or the union sector."

Progressive Conservative MPP Tim Hudak of Niagara West Glenora said he would like to see third-party advertising during election campaigns eliminated.

"We look across the border, and we see the Political Action Committees (PACs) spending hundreds of millions of dollars," he said. "We see complaints about that,

but in Ontario we have had a one-sided PAC called the Working Family Coalition.

"My two predecessors, as well as myself, were their targets to elect a Liberal gov-

ernment, and in turn they get to rent the government for four years."

"I think no matter where you are on the political spectrum, when you have a group

of public sector unions that spends more than any political party to influence the government and get their way, that corrupts democracy."

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 Muffler Shop \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Optical Store \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Auto Repair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auto Towing \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Brock still being pressed on sexual violence issues

BILL SAWCHUK  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Activists at Brock University continue to push administration to change the way it responds to and educates the campus community about sexual violence.

"They need to step it up," student Carissa Taylor said.

"They have made commitments to us as student activists and sure as hell better follow through."



Taylor

Students, faculty and support staff have raised concerns over the university's handling of a recent sexual harassment complaint. They believe their push is gaining momentum, Taylor said.

A former student came forward early last month saying she was told by Brock to keep quiet about an internal investigation that determined a professor gave her alcohol and tried to force himself on her sexually late one night in his office.

An open meeting of the sexual violence prevention task force was held on campus Wednesday to



The Schmon Tower at Brock University.

JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

discuss victim-led policy development, including panels of students, student groups, faculty and staff, and student activists.

Margot Francis, an associate professor of women and gender studies, said more than 60 people attended the meeting.

"The meeting was packed, and the student activists took centre stage

and shifted the balance of power in terms of the next stages of the policy development process."

Taylor said she has heard from activists across the country.

"They see some progress we have made," she said. "This isn't just an isolated incident. People are feeling empowered to speak out and do something."

Kevin Cavanagh, Brock's director of communications and public affairs, reiterated that the university is indeed moving forward on this issue.

President Jack Lightstone was out of town and unavailable for comment.

But Cavanagh said Lightstone is committed to creating a task force to examine Brock's policies and procedures that deal with sexual harassment, sexual violence and unprofessional behaviour, involving students or employees.

"The task force will be comprised of students, staff, faculty and possibly members of the external community," Cavanagh said. "It would hear and consider input from all across campus. Details of the mandate, composition and reporting timelines for the task force will be completed and communicated to the Brock community before the end of April."

Lightstone has also said Brock will hire a new sexual violence response coordinator to work in concert with the human rights and equity officer and provide a central point of contact for all complaints about sexual violence and harassment. This role will include handling complaints and providing education and support to all members of the Brock community.

Taylor said she is pleased to see Brock addressing the problem, but there is more to be done.

Student leaders and administration members held a meeting March 24.

"The university committed to more than they have put out there," Taylor said. "We sent our notes after the meeting to make sure we were all on the same page about commitments made."

"We told them if you are not going to commit publicly to these things, we are going to assume you have no intentions to follow through with them."

"We never did receive a response to that message from the senior administration, so that is problematic."

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### Drug trafficking arrests made in Welland

Three people from Welland have been arrested after police searched an

apartment on Dorothy Street Thursday.

Police began an investigation at the beginning of 2016 after they were made aware of an apartment where drugs were allegedly being sold. The investigation led to a

search warrant being issued. During the search officers seized suspected crystal methamphetamine valued about \$8,500. They also discovered a marijuana-growing operation with 30 plants.

Officers also seized dried and packaged marijuana, \$620 in cash, knives and various drug paraphernalia used in the sale and use of drugs.

Steven Mccoll, 28, Krystal Cousins, 24, and Jacob

Rosloski, 33, have been arrested and charged with possession of illegal substances with the intent of trafficking, possession of proceeds obtained by crime, production of an illegal substance, careless storage

of ammunition, unauthorized possession of ammunition and possession of a dangerous weapon. Rosloski has also been charged with failing to comply with his conditions of probation.

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# Last displaced GM workers returning to Glendale

**DON FRASER**  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

St. Catharines' roving General Motors workers are coming home.

For up to 14 years, dozens of the hourly employees based in Niagara were displaced by layoffs. They had to work at GM's facilities in CAMI Automotive in Ingersoll, Woodstock — and especially Oshawa.

For many of the 280 originally-displaced workers from Niagara it's meant grinding hours on the highway to Oshawa's General Motors plant.

If they displaced families and forced many into alternative living arrangements through the week.

However, since 2013, many returned back to their home plant in the Garden City and Niagara homes.

This week, an agreement between Unifor and GM allowed 52 remaining displaced workers to return to full-time production positions in St. Catharines on May 9.

Of that number, 14 are based in Woodstock and 38 in Oshawa.

"It hasn't sunk in yet, I'm going to be ecstatic," said Tony Blasioli, a 58-year-old Welland resident. "I kept

saying 'you'll never get back' and then I'd think 'never is a long time. It was almost never,'" said Blasioli with a wry laugh.

For years, Blasioli has trucked, carpooled and group-bussed his way first in 2002 to Oshawa and then last April to Woodstock's parts facility. It's taken a toll on the family man, who estimates he racked up 100,000 km. a year in his truck when driving the 218 km. each-way to Oshawa. Drives to Oshawa could take anywhere from two to four hours.

"It has been a long one, now I am back home," he said. "Just 10 more work days. 'I did what I had to do ... I thought 'I'm doing this for my pension.'"

For the most part, Blasioli is part of a group hired in a 1988-to-1992 GM employment blitz in the Garden City.

Years later, they endured assorted layoffs and ended up based mostly in Oshawa.

The problem for these workers is they "timed out" — many worked longer for GM away from the St. Catharines than they've worked locally.

For years there was no contract language between the union — formerly Canadian Auto Workers — and GM

to allow them recall rights back. However, in recent years, many have been

recalled back to the Glendale Powertrain plant. And now the circle is complete. "It's a

huge victory for everybody," said Tim McKinnon, Unifor Local 199's GM plant chair

for St. Catharines. "I have never seen people so happy in my life."

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# Lady Antebellum returns to Fallsview in July

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

Lady Antebellum owned the night last time they were in Niagara Falls, so they're coming back for seconds.

The Grammy-winning Nashville trio will return to Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort July 12 and 13, where they played two triumphant sold-out shows early last year. It was one of the smallest venues the band had played in years, a warm-up for a 2015 tour in much larger spaces.

Casino spokesman Greg Modulum said the 1,500-seat Avalon Ballroom made quite an impression on the group.

"The members of Lady A made it very clear to us after their last run here that they loved the Avalon theatre, our entertainment staff and the overall experience of being in Niagara Falls," he said.

During that visit in February 2015, the band also donated 35 ukuleles to Pich Street School in Welland.

With huge hits such as Need You Now and Just a Kiss, the band is one of the biggest country acts of the past decade, winning seven Grammy Awards.

Tickets start at \$95. Both shows start at 8:30 p.m.

Also coming to Fallsview in July will be legendary Creedence Clearwater Revival singer John Fogerty July 14 and 15, with tickets starting at \$80.

Fallsview favourite Tony Orlando returns July 7 and 8



Lady Antebellum performing at the Niagara Fallsview Casino last February. The Grammy-winning country trio returns in July.

MIKE DINIATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

master.ca.

jlaw@postmedia.com

(\$30), along with David Cassidy July 16 (\$25), Ti Lascio Una Canzone July 9 and 10

(\$80) and an extended run of Dancing Queen July 20 to 31 (\$25).

Melissa Manchester will join the Songwriters Series July 9 (\$40).

Tickets for all July shows are on sale at the Fallsview box office and [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca).

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